

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION, BOROUGH OF LOSTWITHIELL

"GENTLEMEN,"

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1939.

I have been instructed by the Minister of Health that, owing to the war and in view of the increasing work in the public health departments of local authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, this report should be confined to essential and urgent matters and I propose therefore to act on these instructions.

During the year under review no particular noteworthy events arose as the result of or in connection with the war which presented any urgency or problems. During the month of September with your consent immunization against diphtheria was given to about 150 school children; the response to this offer, though not universal, was, I am glad to be able to report, better than I had expected.

#### SECTION A.

##### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

	Area.....	3050 cases			
	Population.....	1963			
	Number of inhabited houses.....	674			
	Rateable value.....	£8,448			
	Sum represented by 1d rate.....	£35.4.0d			
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	15 males 12 females			
	Illegitimate	1 "	Total 27	Birth Rate 13.3	
<u>Stillbirths</u>		1. " 1. "	Total 2	Rate per 1,000	
				(live & still)	14.8
<u>Deaths</u>		8 " 20 "	Total 28	Rate per 1,000	
					10.2
<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</u>			Nil		
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 year of age</u>			4.		
<u>Deaths from Cancer</u>			3		
<u>Deaths from Measles</u>			Nil		
<u>Deaths from Whooping Cough</u>			1.		
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years</u>			1.		

#### SECTION B.

##### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes under this heading during the year.

#### SECTION C.

##### SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water:- The new waterworks at Collobeach came into operation during the month of May resulting in a very marked improvement in the supply of the area affected. 574 inspections of water supplies were made during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:- 74 inspections of nuisances were made and all were put in order as a result of informal action.

Schools:- The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water supply of the Downend school is now derived from the Folliebeacon source and has proved satisfactory.

#### SECTION D - HOUSING.

Inspections of five houses in Masons Row were made and the area in which they are situated was declared to be a Clearance Area, a Clearance Order being eventually made. A scheme for the rehousing of displaced tenants was prepared, plans drawn and a site purchased but owing to the War the matter had to be dropped. The building site is now let as allotments.

Inspections were made of four houses at Tangier with a view to action under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts but it was

decided to take no action until the slum clearance undertakings still in hand could be dealt with.

Slum Clearance Orders are operating on Levers Court and Philps Court but the houses have not been demolished. Two of the houses at Philps Court have been occupied by the tenants who were in occupation when the Order was made. One of the houses at Levers Court and one at Philps Court were let after the Clearance Orders became operative and the tenant at Levers Court is still in occupation owing to the fact that no formal action has been taken to evict him.

Four suspected cases of overcrowding have been investigated and the overcrowding provisions of the Housing Acts were found not to be contravened.

SECTION E  
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :- 54 inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies have been made. The cobblestone flooring of one cowshed has been properly concreted and drained as the result of informal action.

Ice Cream :- Five licences were granted during the year and the storage premises have been periodically inspected.

Meat and other foods :- 425 inspections of slaughterhouses and food shops were made.

<u>Carcases inspected and condemned.</u>					
	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number inspected	130	20	35	1,060	822
Whole carcases condemned	1	nil	nil	3	nil
Some part or organ condemned	5	nil	nil	30	nil
Tuberculosis only whole condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	2
Some part or organ condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	54.

Fish :- Large quantities of fish were examined at a Ministry of Food's depot between September 9th and 15th and as a result 304½ stones were destroyed. A very large quantity of the fish arriving at the depot was found to be in an advanced state of putrefaction. The depot was subsequently closed down.

SECTION F.  
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Commencing during the month of October there was a fairly widespread epidemic of whooping cough. The incidence of Influenza was low and of a mild character.

The diphtheria prophylactic used in the immunization before referred to was A. P. T.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1939.

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>Total Cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	13	nil	nil
Pneumonia	7	nil	1
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	nil

Tuberculosis :- There was one new case notified, female aged 19, and one death.

The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year was two males and one female.

Presented to the Council  
5, November, 1940

Signed Fredk. H. Rudge,  
Medical Officer of Health.